Motion regarding the retirement of Mr. P. Damodara Menon.

President.—There is a motion standing in the name of Mr. C. J. Mathew expressing the Council's sincere appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. P. Damodara Menon.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, I have very great pleasure to move that "*this Council expresses its most sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by Mr. P. Damodara Menon in different capacities, especially as acting Diwan of Cochin and as President of the Cochin Legislative Council. It also expresses its deep sense of indebtedness towards him.*"

Sir, Mr. Damodara Menon was one of the most trusted and reputed officers of His Highness the Maharaja. In him His Highness had profound faith and confidence. As Secretary to the Diwan, as Sarvadhikariakar to His Highness, as Commissioner of Devaswams, as Head of the Land Revenue Department and finally as Special Officer for Harbour and Railway, he discharged his duties in a most conscientious manner, to the entire satisfaction of everybody concerned. He is a true and loyal citizen of Cochin, and whenever he had occasion to deal with international questions of importance, especially questions connected with the Cochin Harbour and Railway, he champion ed the cause of the State in a most patriotic manner, and he left no stone unturned to safeguard and protect the interests of the State. Mr. Menon had the rare good fortune to study the art of administration under able statesmen like Sir A. R. Bannerji and Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, and during last year this time, Sir, when he was appointed by the gracious pleasure of His Highness the Maharaja to act for you as Diwan of Cochin, it was this experience of the past that stood him in good stead. It is, therefore, only right and proper to recognise that his administration was marked with *honesty of purpose* and *imagination*, and the prompt and decisive steps he took to stamp out corruption from the State are still fresh in our memory. (*Hear, hear.*) Lastly, but not leastly, I may make mention of the fact that, as President of this House, he came in for our most sincere love, appreciation and approbation. It is enough to say that he was to us an *ideal* President.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Sir, I beg to second the resolution. It was a very sore disappointment we felt that the usual extension given to officers was not given in a sufficient measure to Mr. P. Damodara Menon. As an officer of the State, he has served the State patriotically and honestly, and I believe he has discharged his duties in a way which the other officers of the State can very well take as a model. It

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may be that in his old age he wants to devote his leisure in order to better the economic and social conditions of the people of the State, and he has merited a well-earned rest. I join my friend in expressing my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness towards Mr. P. Damodara Menon for his sincere and honest work which he has done both towards the State and to the people of this country.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I rise to support the motion. It is with much pleasure that I do so, especially under the present conditions of the Legislative Council. Mr. Damodara Menon, as a Member of this Council, from the very first sitting of the Council, had shown how the Government point of view could be presented without wounding the feelings of the non-official Members. That was the chief characteristic of Mr. Menon, and many of us here have to follow him in this matter.

Soon after Mr. Menon left the service of the State, I happened to read a Government Proceedings regarding a resolution passed by this Council. It was not happily worded, and I believe, if Mr. Menon were the Head of the Executive, he would not have passed such a Proceedings. He would certainly have objected to publish in the Government Gazette such a Proceedings.

As a President of this Council, Mr. Menon set a noble example. He did not make any distinction in the Legislative Council between the official and non-official Members and for this, I should say, the non-official Members have been asking for a long time. He availed himself of every opportunity to move very freely with the non-official Members. It is very important that official Heads and especially the Executive Head should do so and this can be done in more than one way. He once arranged a tea-party.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—So, are you asking for a tea-party?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I am not asking for it. I am only stating what he did.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The Members should address the President.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I know the Rules of the Council. I know to do my work without any assistance from the Hon'ble Member.

To continue. I regret that the noble example set by Mr. Menon is not at present being followed.

It is usual, I understand, to publish an appreciative note when an officer, who has rendered meritorious service, retires, in the Government Gazette. But in the case of Mr. Menon, no

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such note was published. What is the reason for it? The Government should follow a consistent policy.

With these few words, I support the motion.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ. ഈ നിശ്ചയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നതിനു എനിക്കു അതിയായ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. മിസ്റ്റർ ദാമോദരമേനോൻ ഈ സഭയുടെ പ്രസിഡെണ്ടിന്റെ നിലയിൽ എല്ലാവർക്കും തൃപ്തികരമായ നിലക്കു പെരുമാറിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു എടുത്തുപറയേണ്ടതാണ്. പാർലിമെണ്ടുകളിൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ പ്രസംഗിക്കാത്ത പ്രാസംഗികന്മാർ (സ്പീക്കർമാർ) ആണ്. അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ നടപടിക്രമംസംബന്ധിച്ചുമാത്രമല്ലാതെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ താങ്ങാൻ ഇടക്കിടക്കു കയറി സംസാരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് സഭാംഗങ്ങളുടെ വിലയേറിയ സമയം വെറുതെ നഷ്ടമാകുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു. മിസ്റ്റർ ദാമോദരമേനോൻ ഈ തത്വം നല്ലപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു ഈ സഭയിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് മുമ്പും പിമ്പും തീർത്തിട്ടില്ലാത്തമാതിരി കായ്ങ്ങളം തീർക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഭരണകായ്ങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുള്ള യോഗ്യതകളെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു നല്ല നിശ്ചയമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഉള്ള യോഗ്യതവെച്ചുംകൊണ്ടു എല്ലാജാതിക്കാരോടും മതക്കാരോടും തുല്യാനുകമ്പയോടുകൂടി പെരുമാറുന്ന ഗുണം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. നാനാജാതിമതസ്ഥന്മാരടങ്ങിയ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഈ ഗുണം ഭരണകർത്താക്കന്മാർക്കു പ്രത്യേകം ആവശ്യമാണ്.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I desire, in supporting this motion, to associate myself completely with what has been said with regard to Mr. Damodara Menon by all the previous speakers. I do not wish to say anything further.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I heartily wish to support the resolution. As the services rendered by Mr. Damodara Menon are all fresh in our minds, I do not propose to go in detail over them. But I wish to refer to the last work of his with which we are closely connected, namely, his acting Diwanship and his Presidentship over our deliberations in the last Budget Session. In connection with these it is no exaggeration to say that in that distinguished position he exhibited considerable sympathy and considerable tact in disposing of the several questions involved in the discussion of the budget. Another point which I wish to emphasise is that, I understand that, in the matter of the question of extension of the Railway, he has put up a strenuous fight to have the connection between Trichur and the Pollachi-Palghat line to be effected as early as possible. It is also seen, according to many, including Mr. Damodara Menon, that that connection is of paramount importance in more ways than one. If he has done this bit of duty here, I think, if nothing else has been

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done by him, it is sufficient to enforce from us our sincere gratitude for his services.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I also rise to associate myself with the sentiments that have been already expressed in this House with reference to Mr. Damodara Menon. Mr. Damodara Menon was an intimate friend, and we can only praise them when they are not present. Of all the Presidents that have presided in the Chair of this House, he happens to have been the Speaker that never spoke. That quality, as you are well aware of, Sir, we have been insisting in this House for carrying on the deliberations of this House in a satisfactory manner. Not that we object to the intervention of the Speaker, but we sometimes find that much of our valuable time is lost by the intervention of the speaker of the President or the House. It is for us to do the speaking, and we wish to emphasise that point very much, and we are, therefore, glad to testify that the one President who adhered to that is being warmly praised in the House.

From that point I pass on to the administrative side of Mr. Damodara Menon. Mr. Menon, though he was only a short time in the Chair of the Diwan, has nevertheless exhibited qualities which are indeed necessary for an administrator. In the present day, the old bureaucratic method of administration won't do. People won't take it lying down, and people would fight. People have got education, more knowledge and more information on subjects, and the old days, when they could be treated like children, are all over. It is now time to take note of the fact that the children of the old times are grown up to be bearded men, and they will not take things as in the days of old. That material fact, I am sorry to say, is being forgotten now-a-days to a large extent. Sir, we shall come back to these points later on. But, in a congratulatory resoluti on or motion, it is not necessary to go into those paths. Mr. Damodara Menon took note of the fact. I, therefore, have much pleasure in associating myself with all that has been said of Mr. Damodara Menon, of his good qualities of head and heart, and of the satisfactory way in which he has discharged his duties towards his Sovereign and his fellow-subjects, in this State. I hope Mr. Menon, in his retirement, will harness all his energies and thoughts for the benefit of his people and country.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Sir, as one who has been a colleague of Mr. Damodara Menon for a long time, one who has seen his work in the service of the State from the other side of the screen which is not so visible to the public outside, I wish to speak a few words to associate myself with the resolution which

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has been ably and well recommended to this House. Mr. Damodara Menon, I may say, joined service some time after I took up Government service. He rose up from the clerical branch to the position of the Head of office and to that of the Head of a Department. He was well conversant with all the work pertaining to the different Departments. There had been occasions and opportunities for him to do service to the people of the State as an independent Head of office as well as that of a Department. He has made use of these opportunities to the fullest extent, that the fragrance of his name and sweet memory is pervading throughout the land even this day. He abhorred sham and insincere protestations of service. He always appreciated and was not slow to reward good service both from subordinates and from the public at large. When it was ever brought to his notice that a subject of His Highness the Maharaja was the worse off by the action of even the biggest or the smallest officer of the State, his sympathy readily flowed to the persons who were afflicted and always the sympathy was accompanied by a desire to make amends. I shall not refer to anything pertaining to his occupying the Presidential Chair of this House. I need not refer to his adorning the office of the Head of the State. But I have risen to speak these few words because I feel I know Mr. Damodara Menon in different capacities much more than any of the other Members who have testified to his good qualities of head and heart and recommended the resolution to this House. With these observations I support the motion before the House.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, I wish to associate myself with all that has been said of Mr. Menon by Hon'ble Members who preceded me, and I do not propose to give a category of all his good qualities. The fact that during the short span of a month he was able to earn for himself the name of the "People's Diwan" will testify to the various good qualities of head and heart possessed by Mr. Menon. I wish to bring to the notice of this House one observation which Mr. Menon happened to make when he happened to be the Diwan of the State. In connection with the question of the Diwan being the ex-officio President, I remember his having said that the Diwan being in the Chair he has got an advantageous position if only he will try to forget his Diwanship when he is in the Chair. The advantage, according to him, was that, instead of a non-official President of the House sending up the information contained in the deliberations of this House to the Diwan, he has got the additional advantage of getting information at first hand. But there is the rider attached to his statement,

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the Diwan has to forget the Diwanship when he is in the Chair. That observation merits consideration by all who happen to be in the President's Chair. One other thing that I wish to emphasise is that, as the Hon'ble Member for Cheruvirutti put it, the usual extension that has become the order of the day has not been extended to him in its full measure. It is certainly a deviation in the right line. He has been given back to his family in his advanced years. I only wish that the Government will keep to this deviation as far as the present sitting Members also are concerned and give them also back to their family without further extending their periods.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാനും അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ ദാമോദരമേനവന്റെ ഭരണം നാട്ടുകാർക്ക് എത്ര തൃപ്തിയും സന്തോഷവും ഉളവാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഇവിടെ നടന്ന പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നുതന്നെ അറിയാം. ഓരോസമുദായത്തെ പ്രത്യേകമെടുത്തു നോക്കിയാലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഭരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി സന്തോഷവും സംതൃപ്തിയുമാണുള്ളതെന്നു കാണിപ്പാൻ മാത്രമാണ് ഞാൻ എഴുനീറ്റതു. ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും പറയേണ്ടതില്ല. ഞാനും പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ് പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നത് മിസ്റ്റർ ദാമോദരമേനവൻ കൊച്ചി സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ പല ജോലികളും നോക്കിയിരുന്നപ്പോൾ അതാതുജോലികളിൽ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സാമർത്ഥ്യത്തെ വിചാരിച്ചിട്ടല്ല. അദ്ദേഹം, ഈ സഭയുടെ പ്രസിഡെണ്ടിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ ഏറ്റവും യോഗ്യമായ നിലയിലാണ് പെരുമാറിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ സ്ഥിതി വീണ്ടും കണ്ടെത്തുവാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഞങ്ങൾ അന്നു കൊതിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. പിന്നെ അദ്ദേഹം ദിവാൻജിയുടെ ജോലിയിൽനിന്നു ഒഴിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷവും ജാഗ്രതയോടെ ജോലി നോക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ളതു് ഏറ്റവും ശ്ലാഘനീയംതന്നെ.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am very glad to associate myself with all that has been said in praise of Mr. Damodara Menon by Members of this Council. I would wish also to point out an aspect which struck me, both when he was an officer of the Government and when he eventually became, for a brief period of a month, the Diwan of this State and the President of this House. He appeared to me to be of a very serene and detached disposition, capable of looking at matters with entire detachment and with regard only to their relation to the welfare of the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja. He seemed to me to be capable, outstandingly capable, out of the various Heads of Departments available, of speaking out boldly on matters about which he thought clearly. He never hesitated to give bold advice

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even where that advice might not have been palatable to the advised. That, I believe, is a quality which is very desirable from the point of view of the ruled and which I hope to find evinced more and more by responsible officers. His detachment was all the more remarkable when he presided over the deliberations of this House. He seemed to have it in mind, either as the result of conscious effort or as the result of a subconscious realisation, that he was the President of this House and nothing else at the time. I don't want to refer here, in this connection, to anybody else, or to the conduct of anybody else. My remarks are strictly and entirely limited to him, and I do not here draw any comparisons. When various Hon'ble Members stated that he gave entire satisfaction, I thought there was not the least exaggeration in the statement. I heartily endorse that statement. I have also reason to believe that his stoutness of heart has been of considerable help to our State when he was representing our State outside the State in matters connected with the Harbour. What fruits his endeavours have borne or will bear we have yet to see. Whatever it is, one feels pride to contemplate about the career of such a stout-hearted Cochinite. Let us hope that many more such we have now in our midst and many more we may yet get of that type. I take this opportunity, Sir, to endorse all that has been said about him and to support this resolution with as much heartiness as I can.

Question put: *That "this Council expresses its most sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by Mr. Damodara Menon in different capacities, especially as acting Diwan of Cochin and as President of the Cochin Legislative Council. It also expresses its deep sense of indebtedness towards him."*

Question put and unanimously agreed to.

Statement placed on the Table.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Sir, under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place on the Table the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, VIII of 1098:—

Item	Amount Rs.	Remarks
1. Land Revenue. E.—Temporary Establishment	120	The renewal work in respect of the Oodupully lands could not be finished off during the first eight months for which a special staff was originally entertained and its term had to be extended till the end of the year.

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